

APPENDIX B

The Preliminary Amendment amends the Specification to read as follows:

On page 21, lines 20-24:

The [VWIP Manager]Bottleneck Product object **[210m]720m** calculates the extended Lead Time L_{new} by adding Y% of the Lead Time L_i to the Lead Time L_i : $L_{new} = (1 + Y) * L_i$. The VWIP Manager object **210m** next calculates the largest Delta Time L_{100} where the probability is 100%: $L_{100} = (1 - Z) * L_i$. In other words, the VWIP Manager object **210m** calculates L_{100} by subtracting Z% of the Lead Time L_i from the Lead Time L_i .

On page 21, lines 30-33:

For each step within the segment defined by L_{new} , the [VWIP Manager]Bottleneck Product object **[210m]720m** determines the distance D between that particular step and the bottleneck that terminate the segment. The VWIP Manager object **210m** calculates the probability function $P(D)$ for the step based on the value of D relative to L_{100} as follows: